



IEMSA
Iowa Emergency Medical Services Association
OUR VOICE

Legislative EMS Study Committee

IEMSA Presentation : November 6, 2013



IEMSA Mission :

To provide a voice and promote the highest quality and standards of Iowa's Emergency Medical Services.



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IEMSA History

Founded in 1987, IEMSA has been actively involved in emergency medical care in Iowa. The Iowa EMS Association has been the guiding force in:

- **Initiating and supporting EMS legislation** for funding of training and equipment for ambulance services in Iowa.
- **Representing its members on task forces, advisory groups and boards** at the local, regional, state and national levels.
- **Addressing issues that affect EMS services** through service director meetings and educational programs.
- **Establishing a communication** link for its members through a newsletter that provides updates on current EMS happenings.
- **Bringing nationally recognized speakers** and topics to a statewide Annual EMS Conference and Trade Show.



IEMSA Overview

- Represent 12,000 EMS Providers
- 23 member Board of Directors (2 from Training Group)
- Representation on various task forces, advisory groups, & boards
- Initiating & Supporting EMS Legislation
- Annual Conference & Trade Show
- Annual EMS Memorial Service
- EMS Day on the Hill
- Leadership Training, Membership Outreach, Communications
- Annual Ambulance Billing Conference

Various Delivery Methods In Iowa

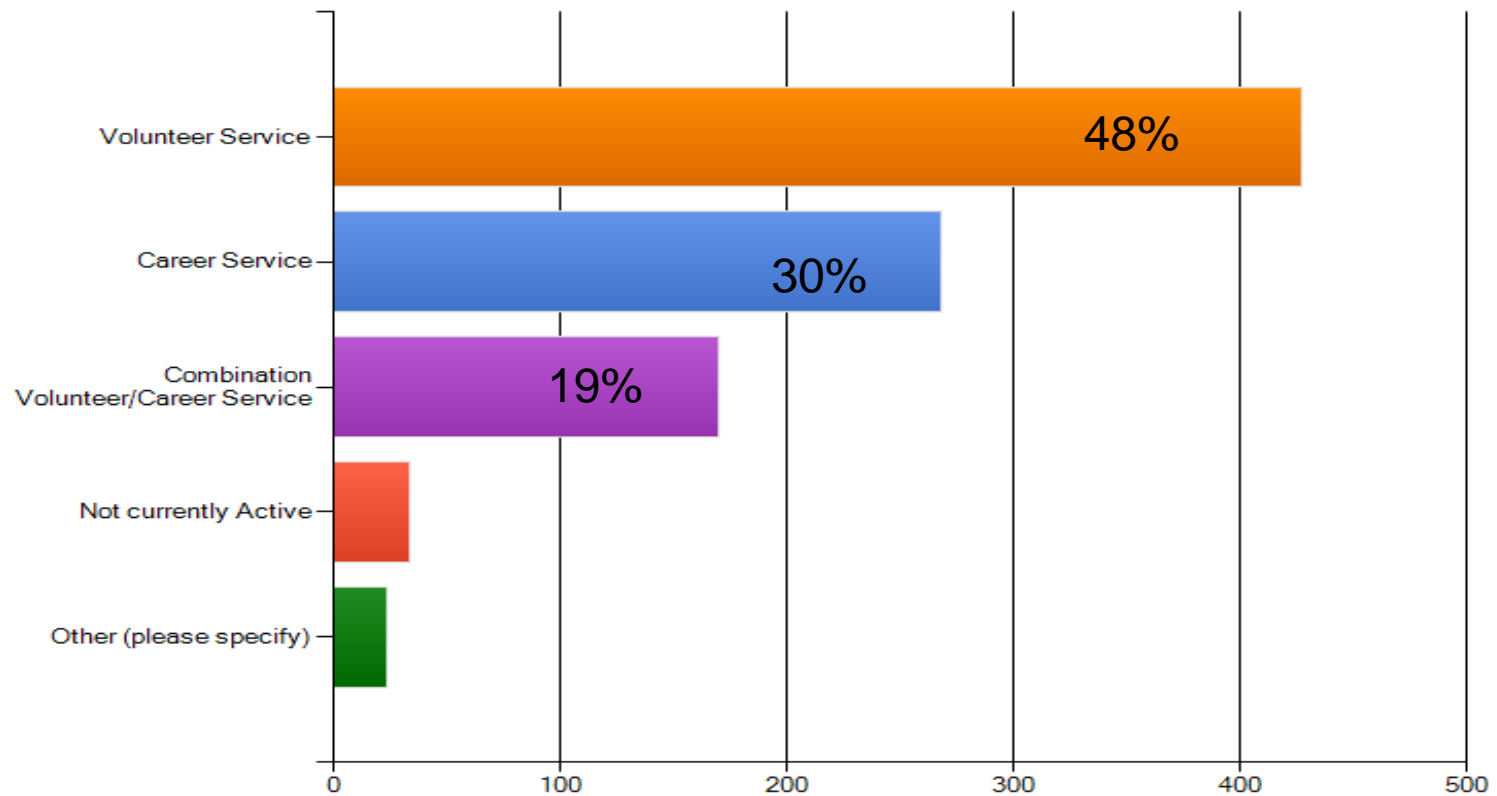
- Volunteer
- Career
- Combination
- Hospital Based
- Fire Based
- Third Service
- Private
- Governmental
- Fire Departments (57%)
- Private (16%)
- Hospitals (13%)
- Public Services (14%)
- 64% of providers are volunteers
- 2/3 responding to emergencies aren't compensated



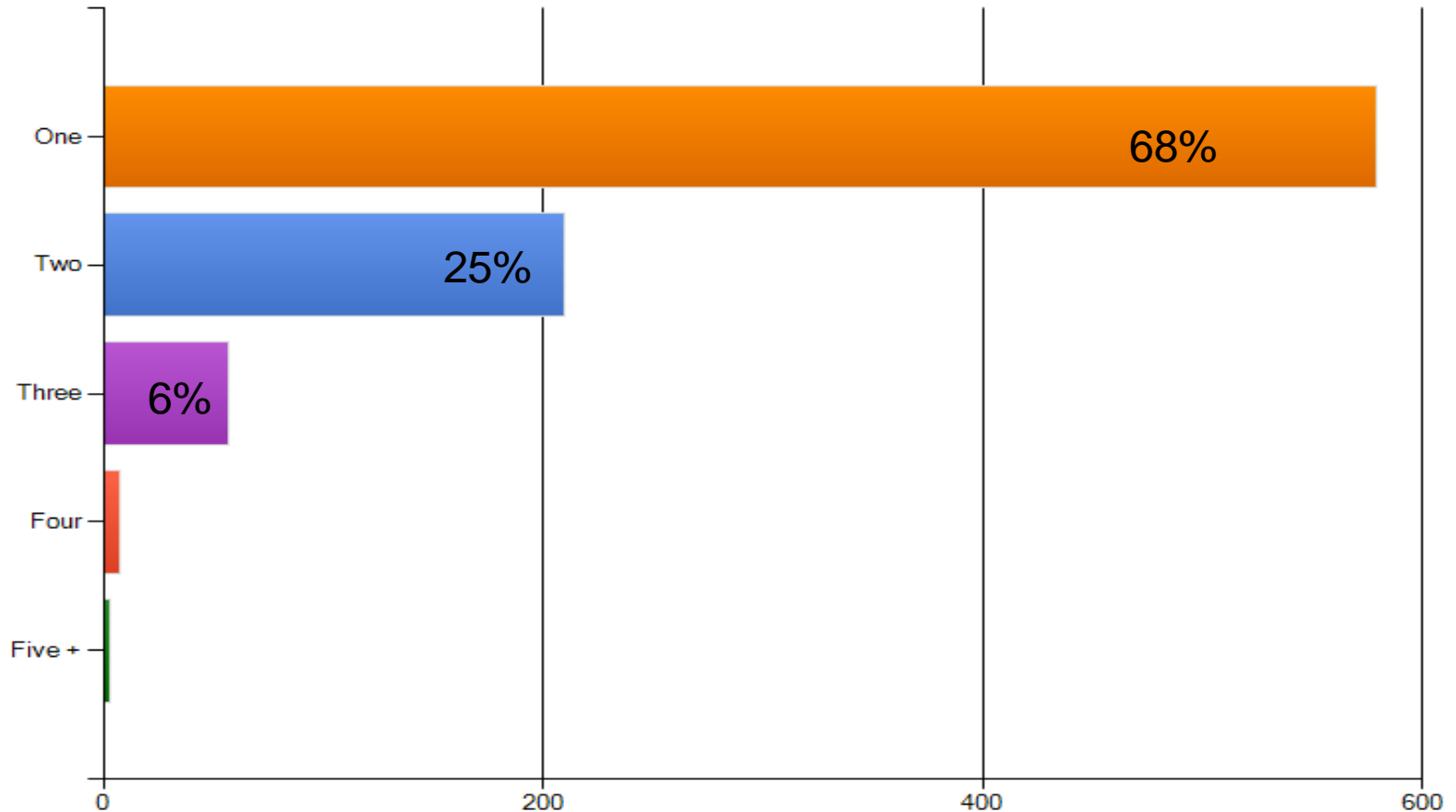
We surveyed the EMS providers

- Results and comments from actual providers
- Additional feedback from Town Hall Meeting

What type of EMS Delivery Model?

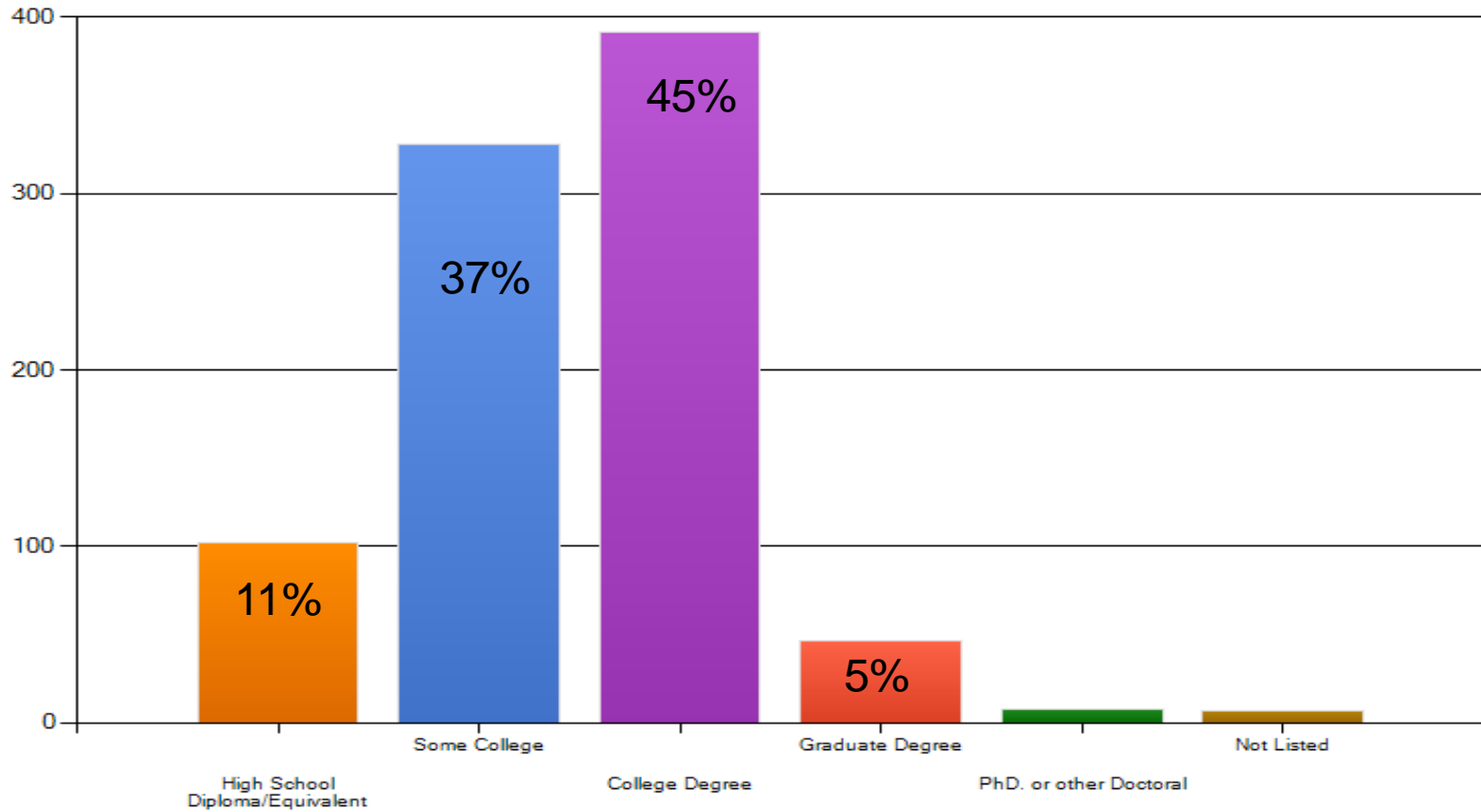


How many EMS agencies do you work and/or volunteer for?



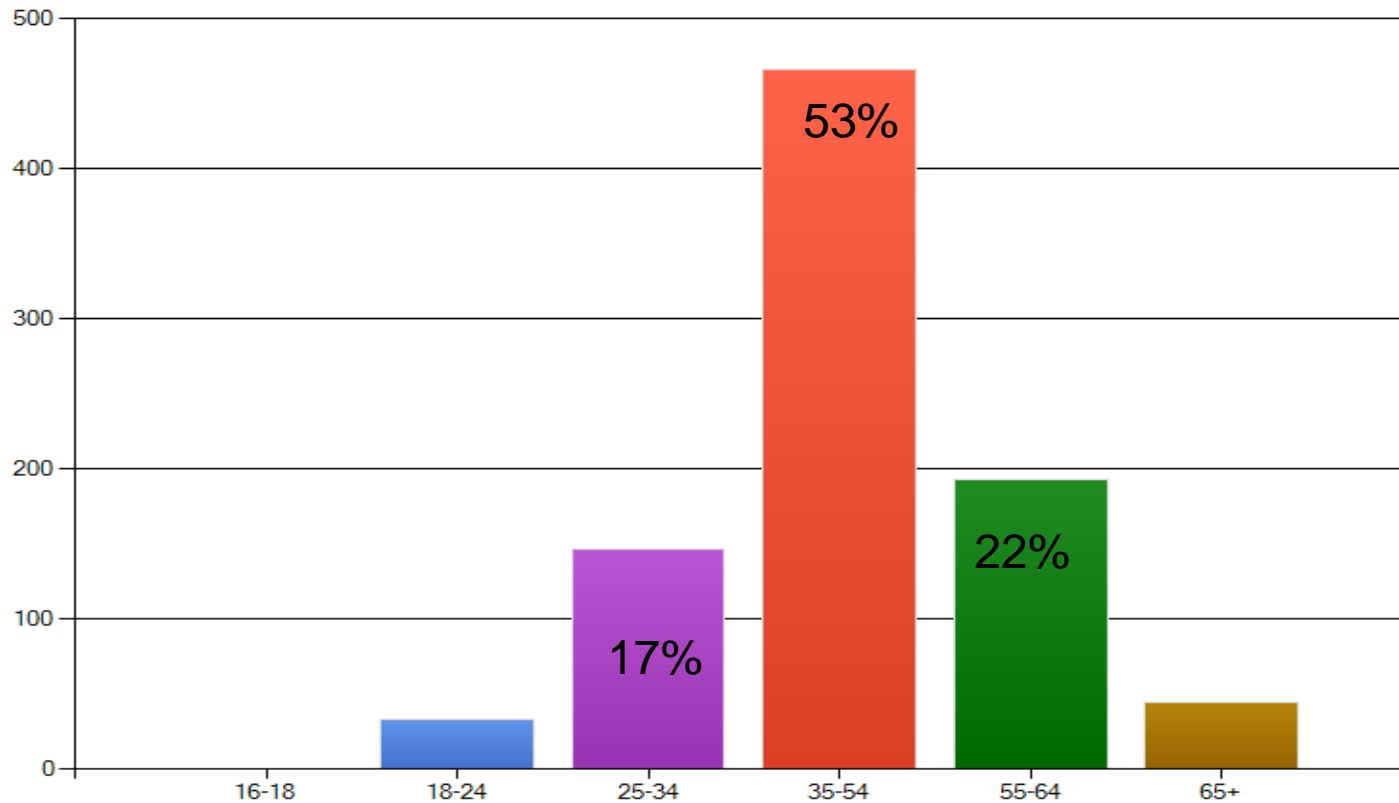
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Highest Level of Non-EMS Education

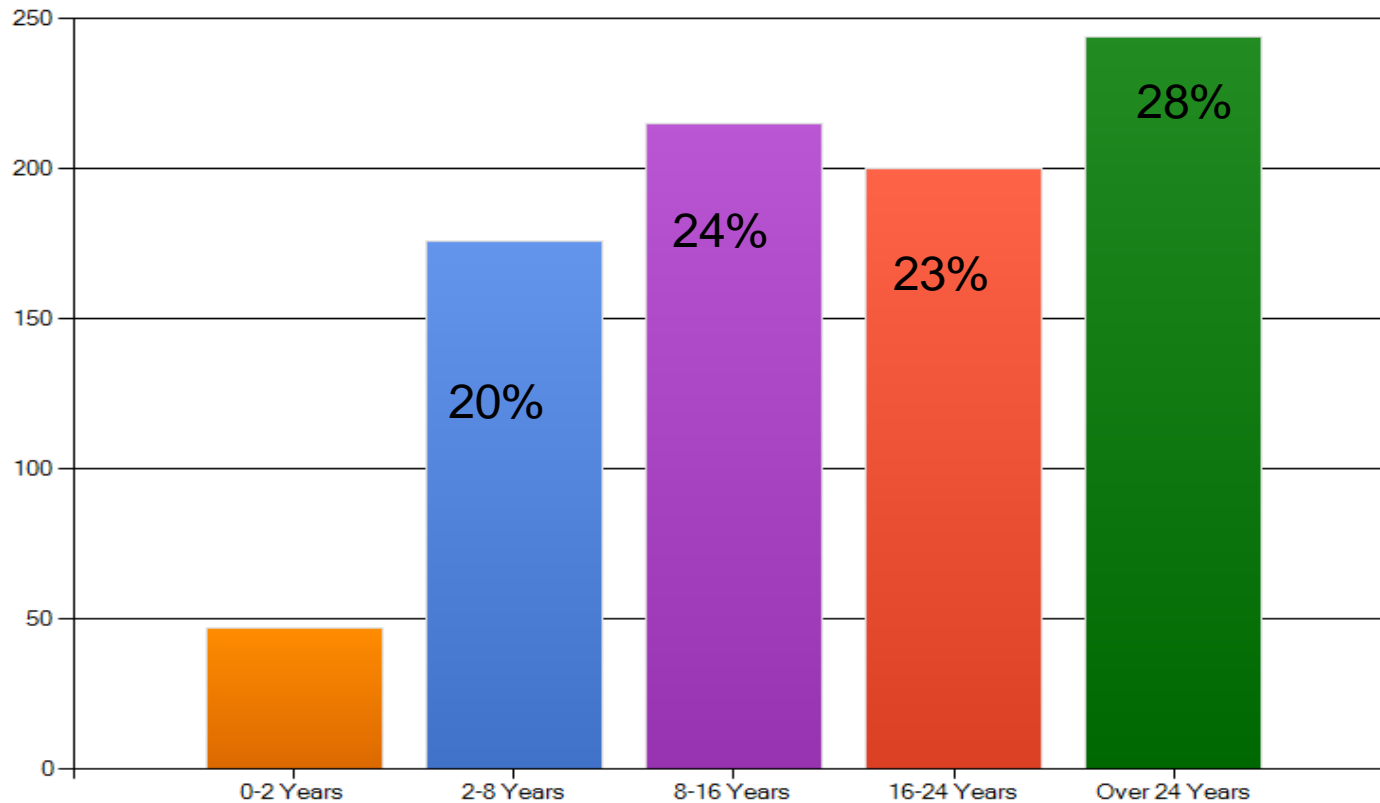


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Age Description

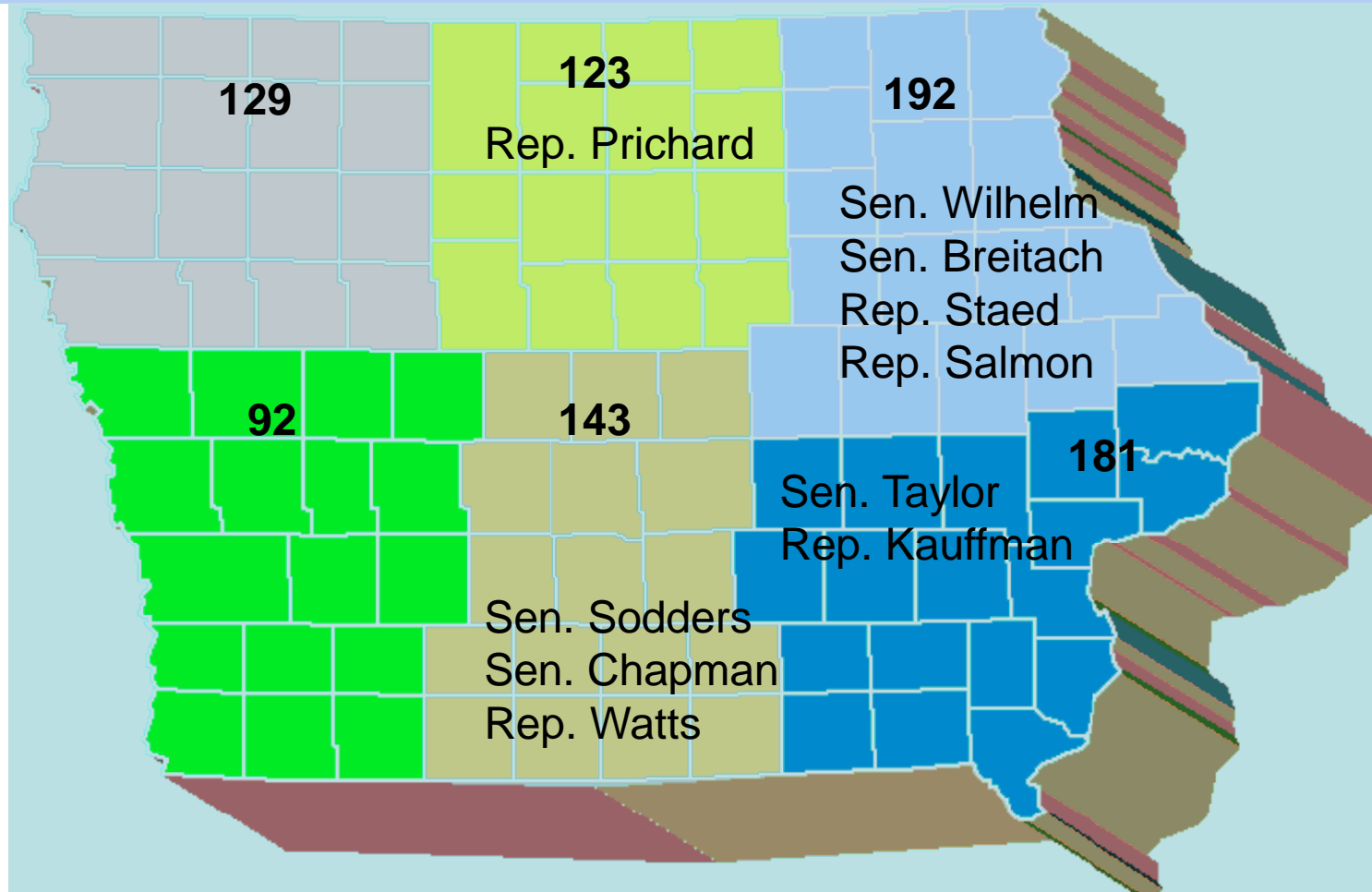


Years as an EMS Provider

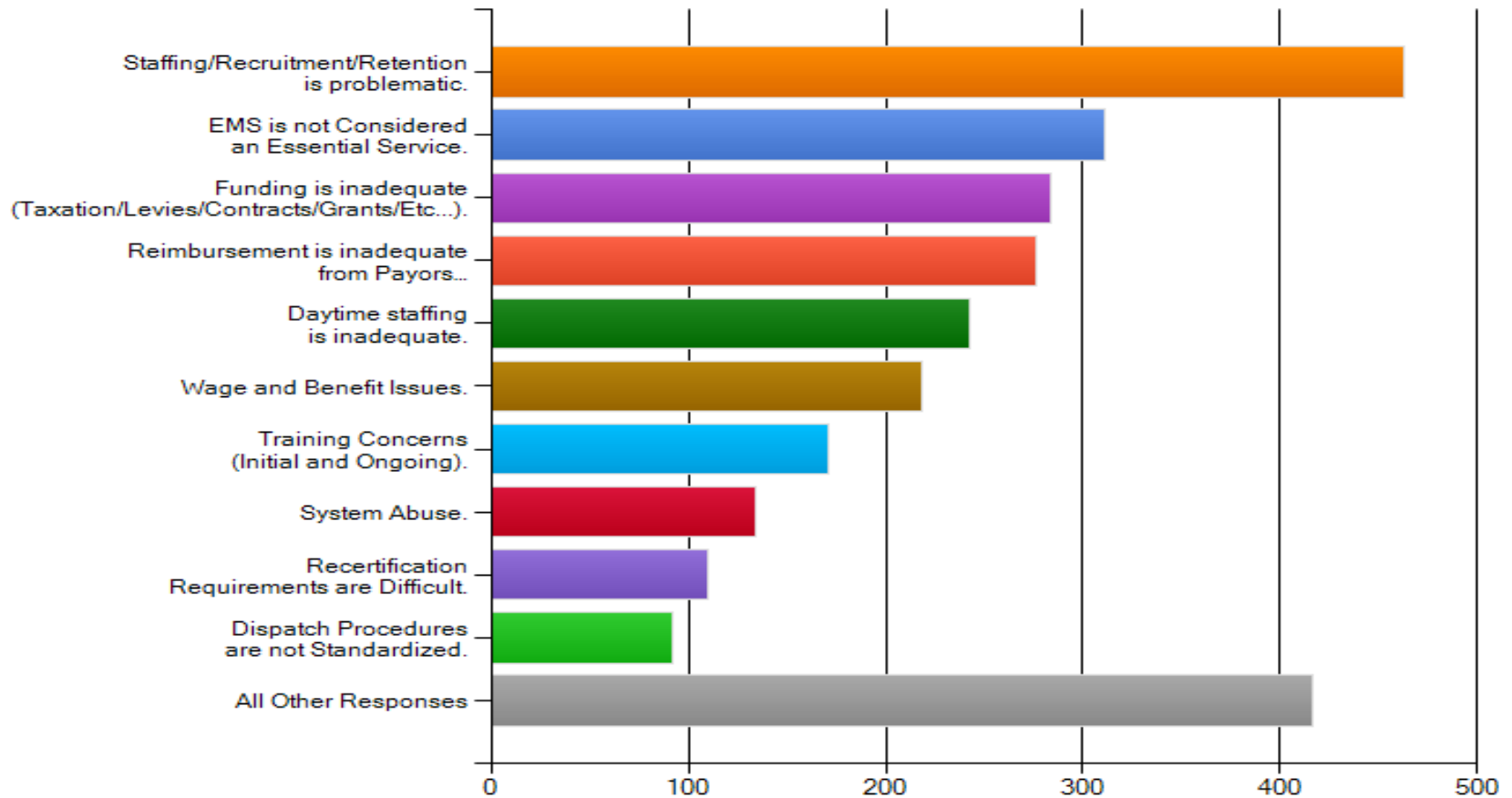


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Region Where Survey Providers Serve In

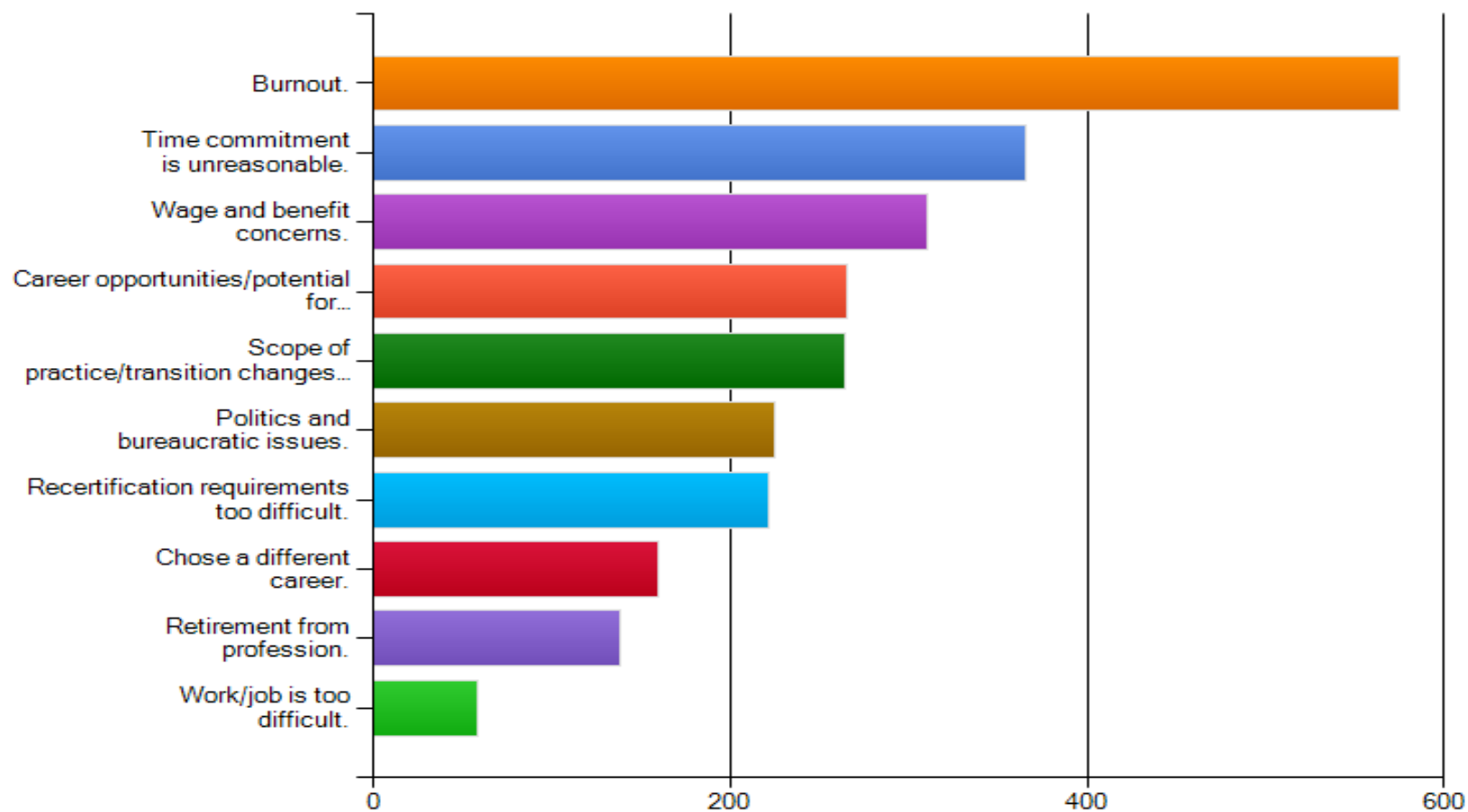


Top 3 EMS Concerns of EMS Providers

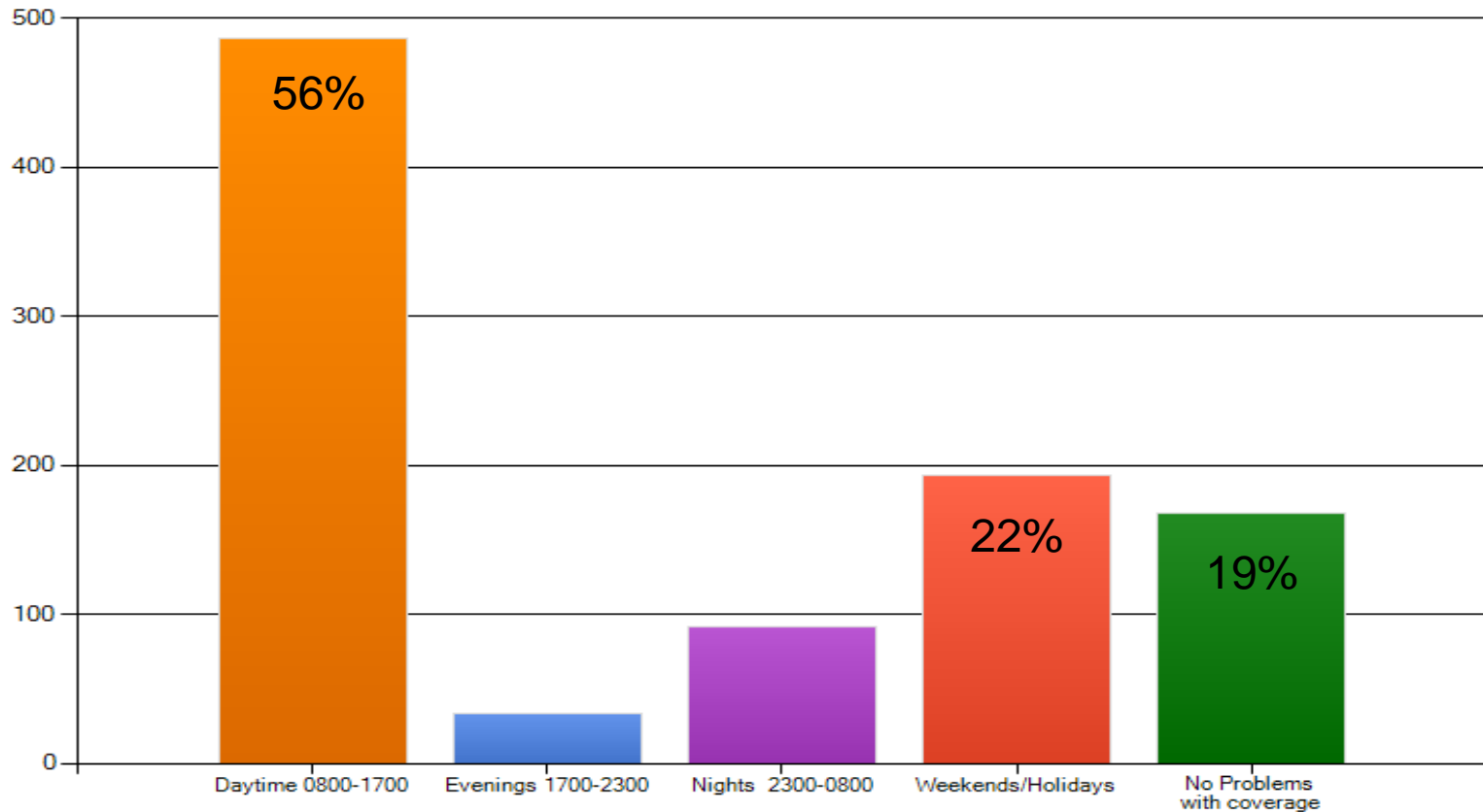


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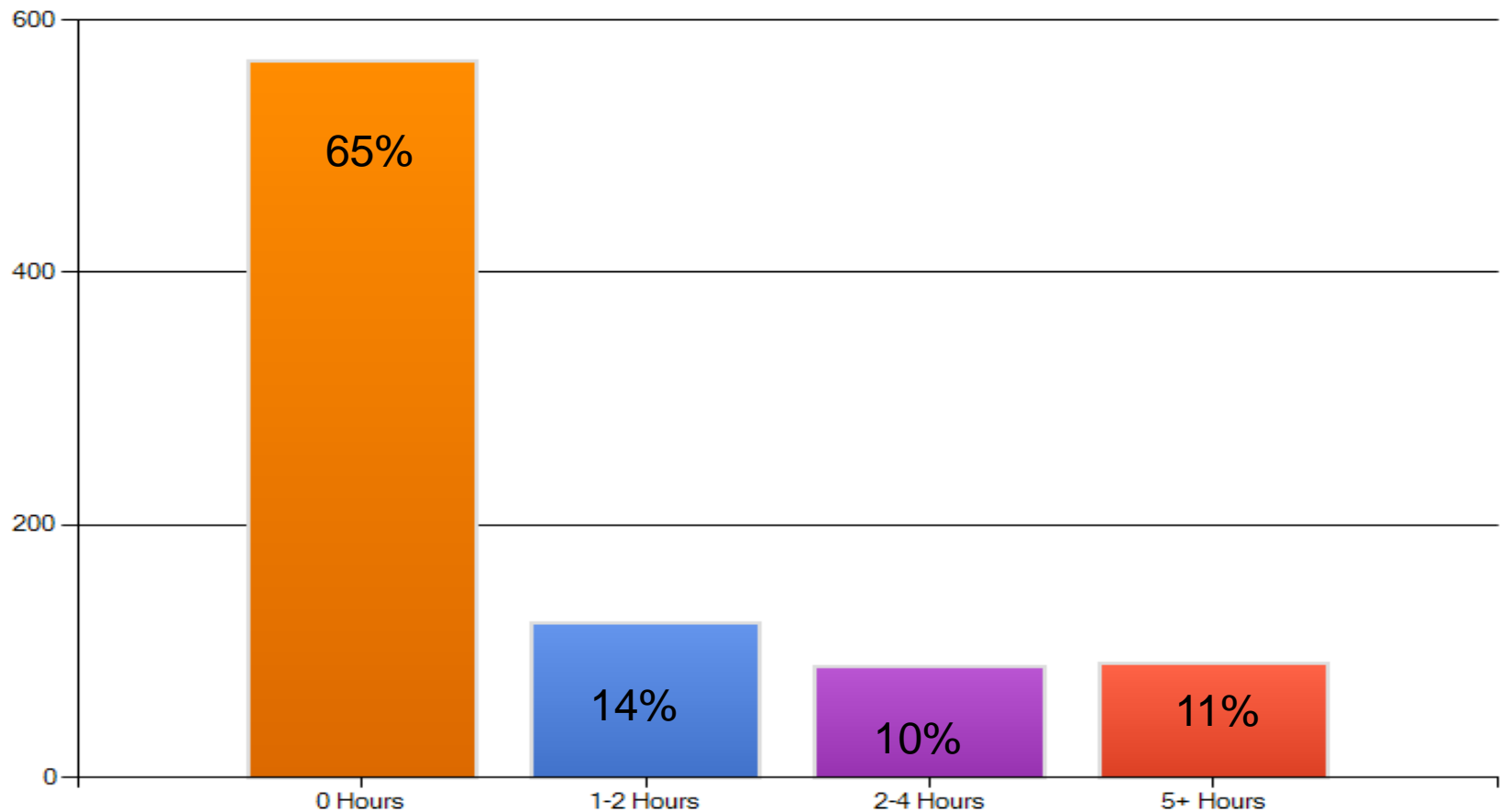
Top 3 Reasons for Lapsed Certification



Most Difficult Time of Day for EMS Coverage

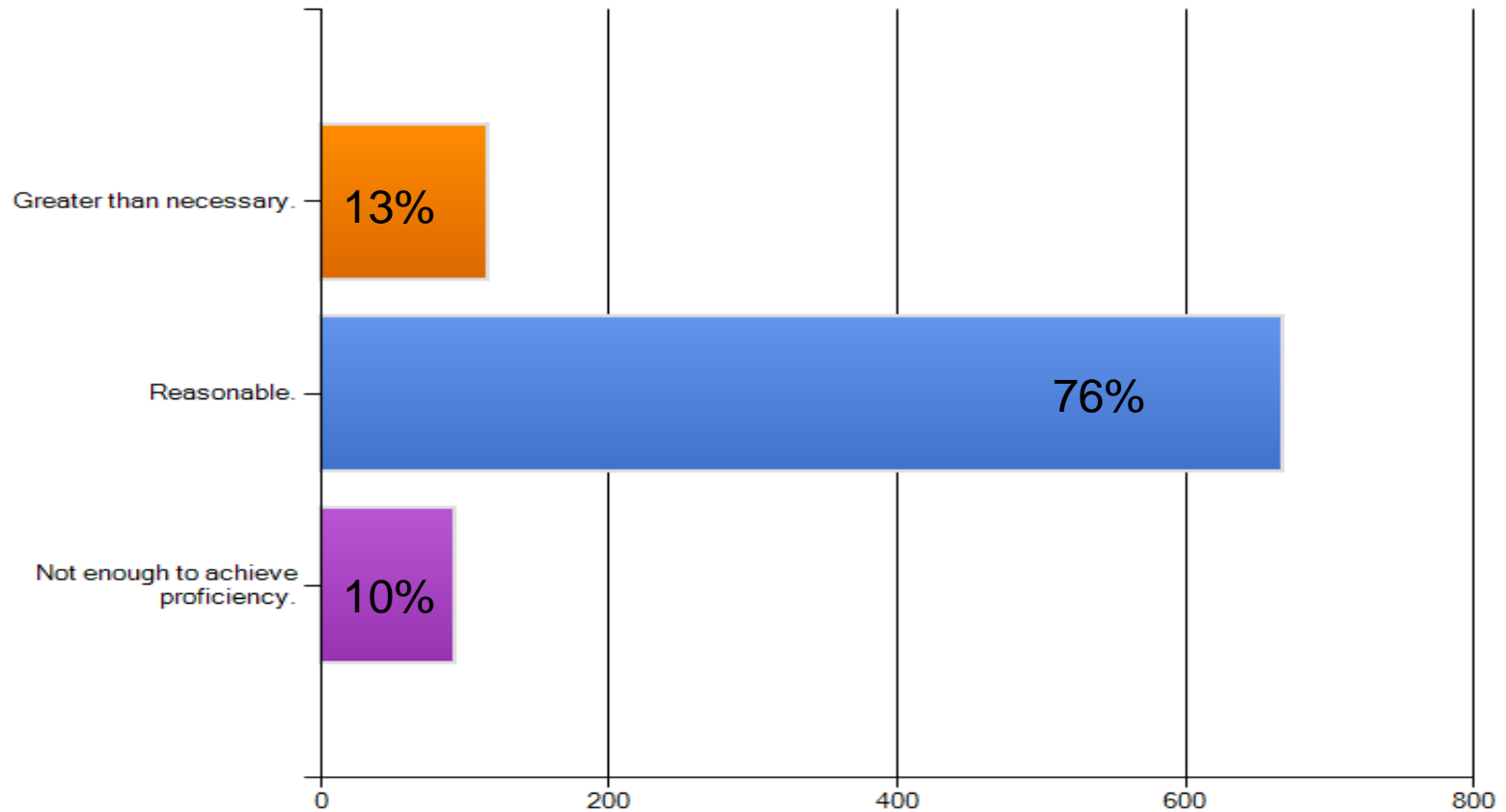


Hours Per Day EMS Coverage Unavailable

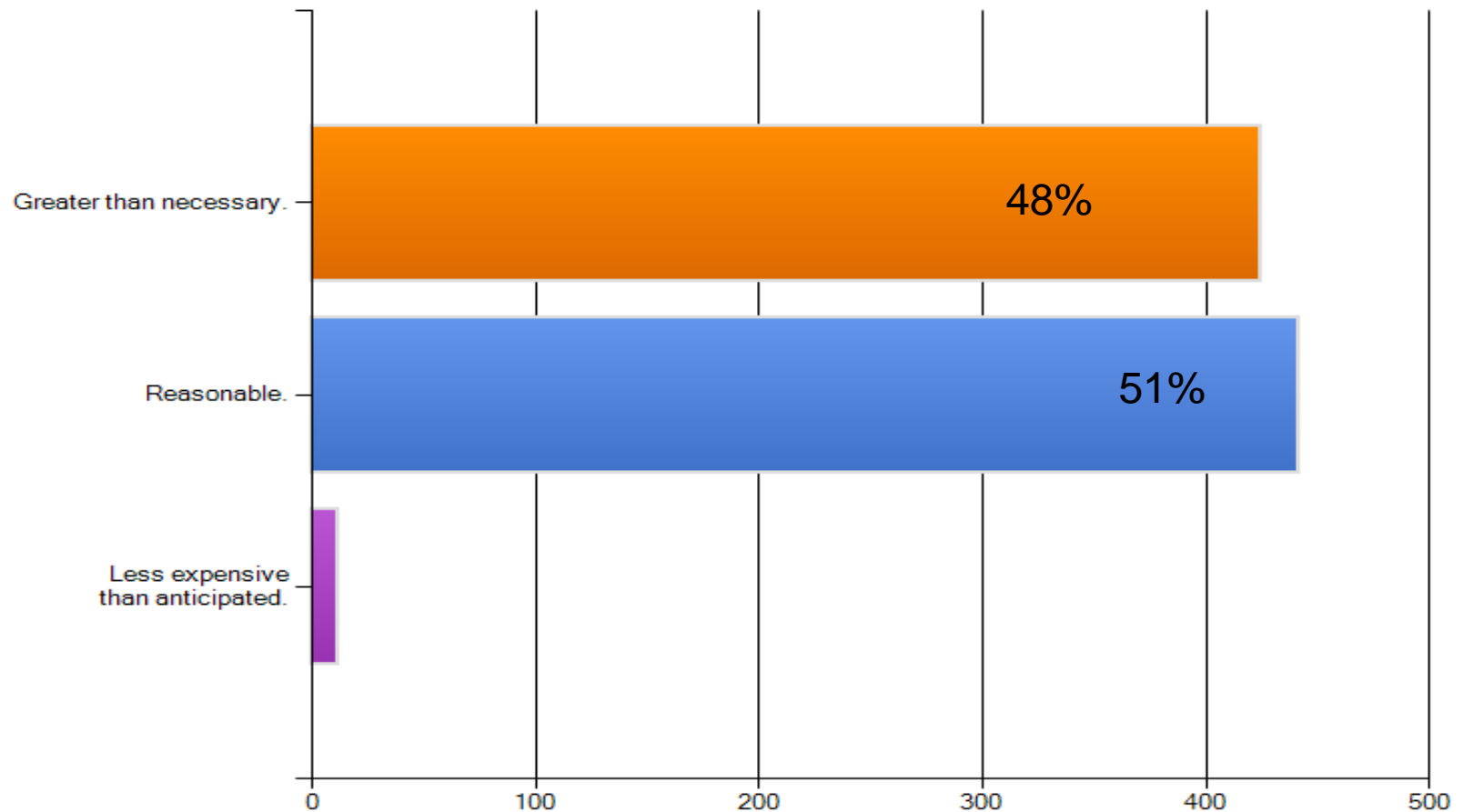


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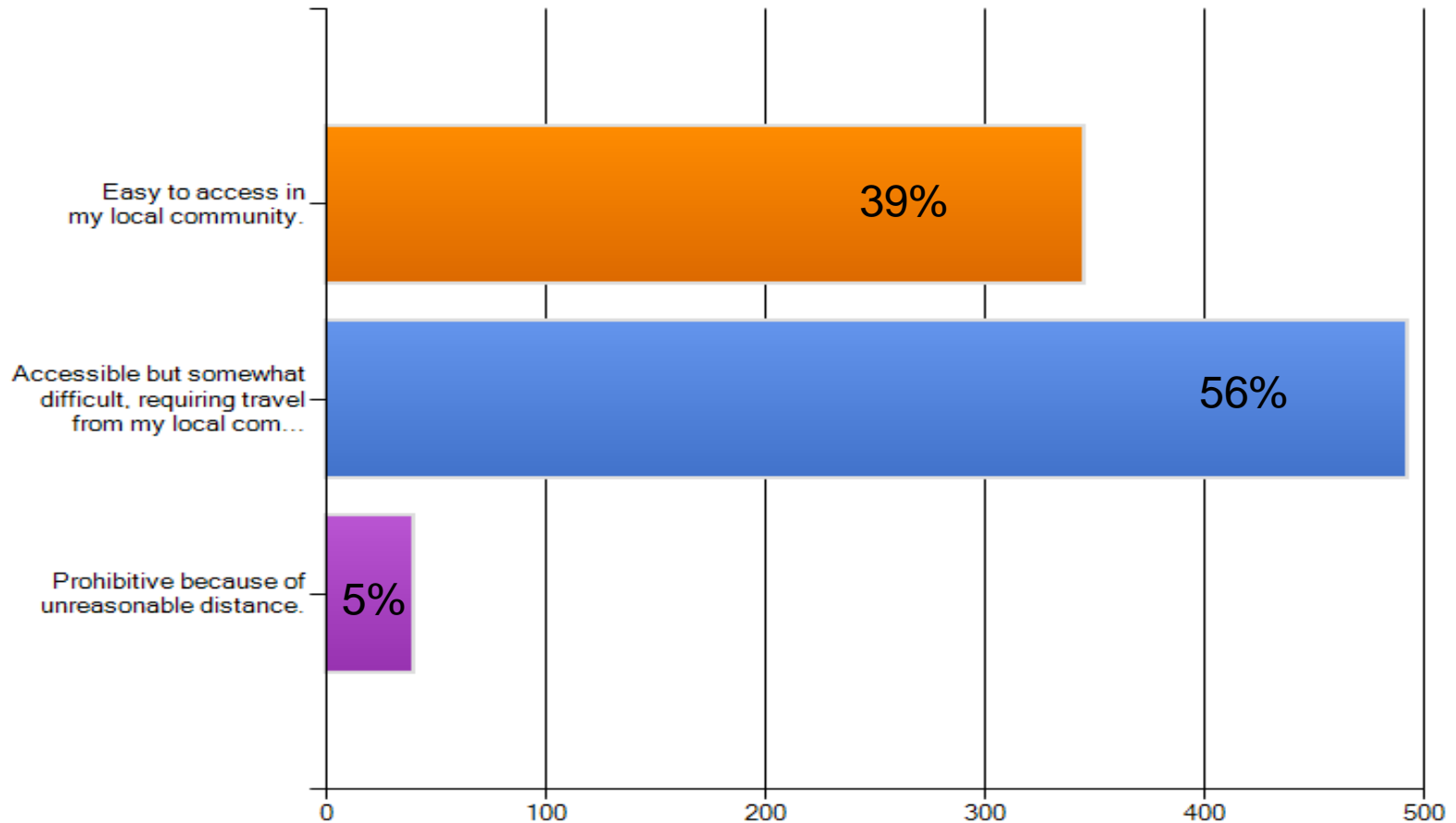
Time Spent on Initial EMS Education



How Expensive is Initial EMS Education?

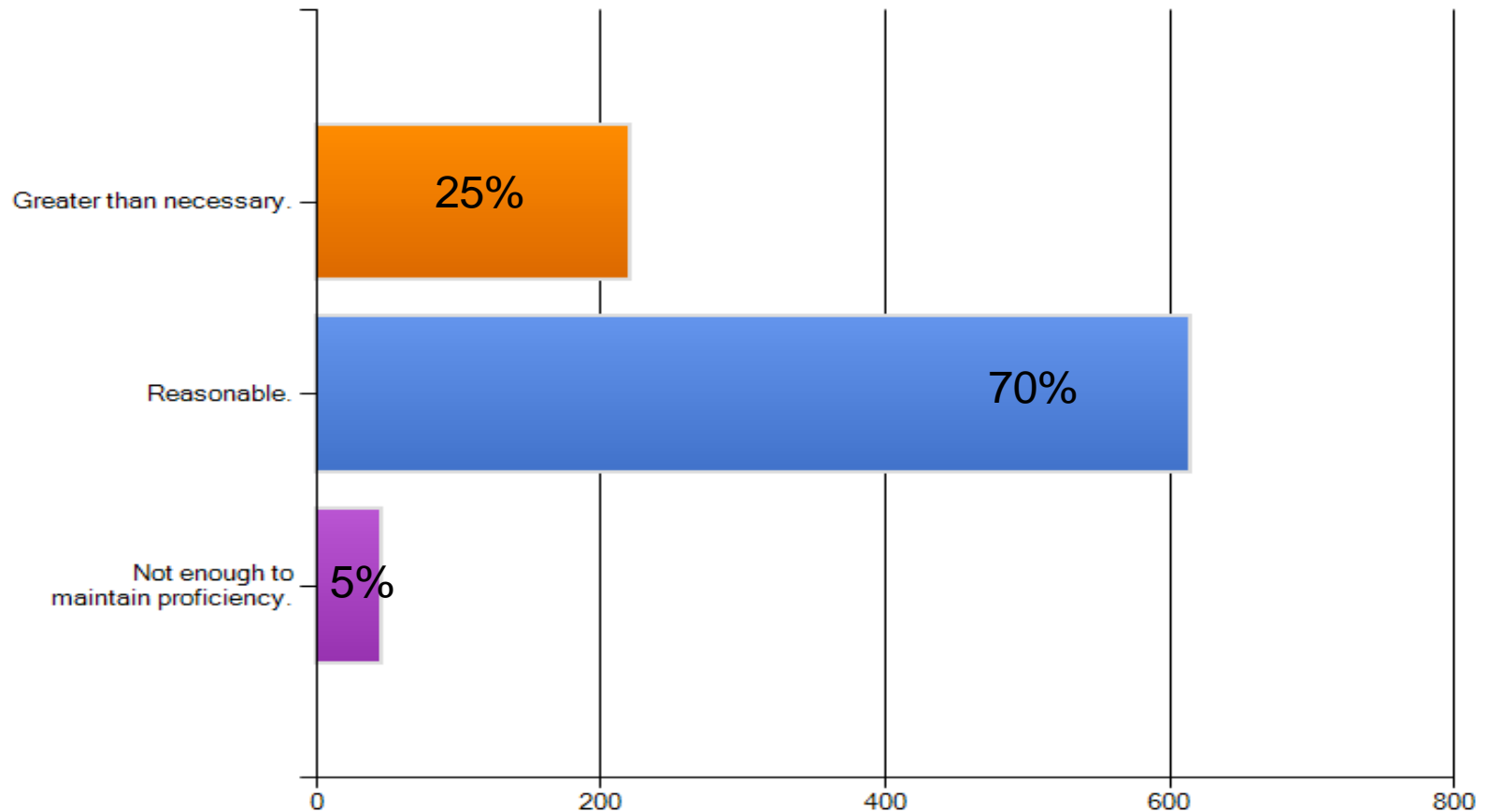


How Accessible is Initial EMS Education?

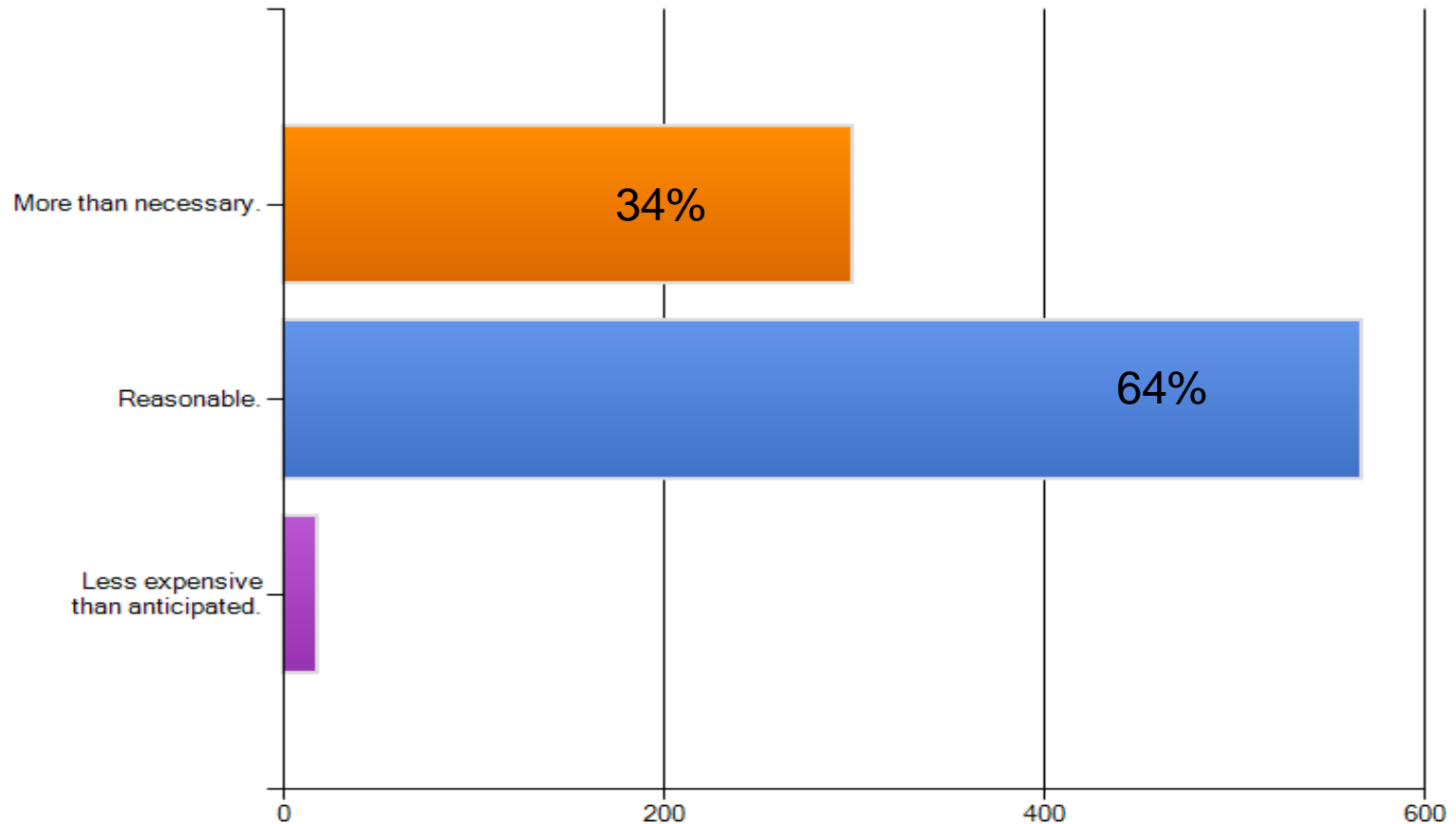


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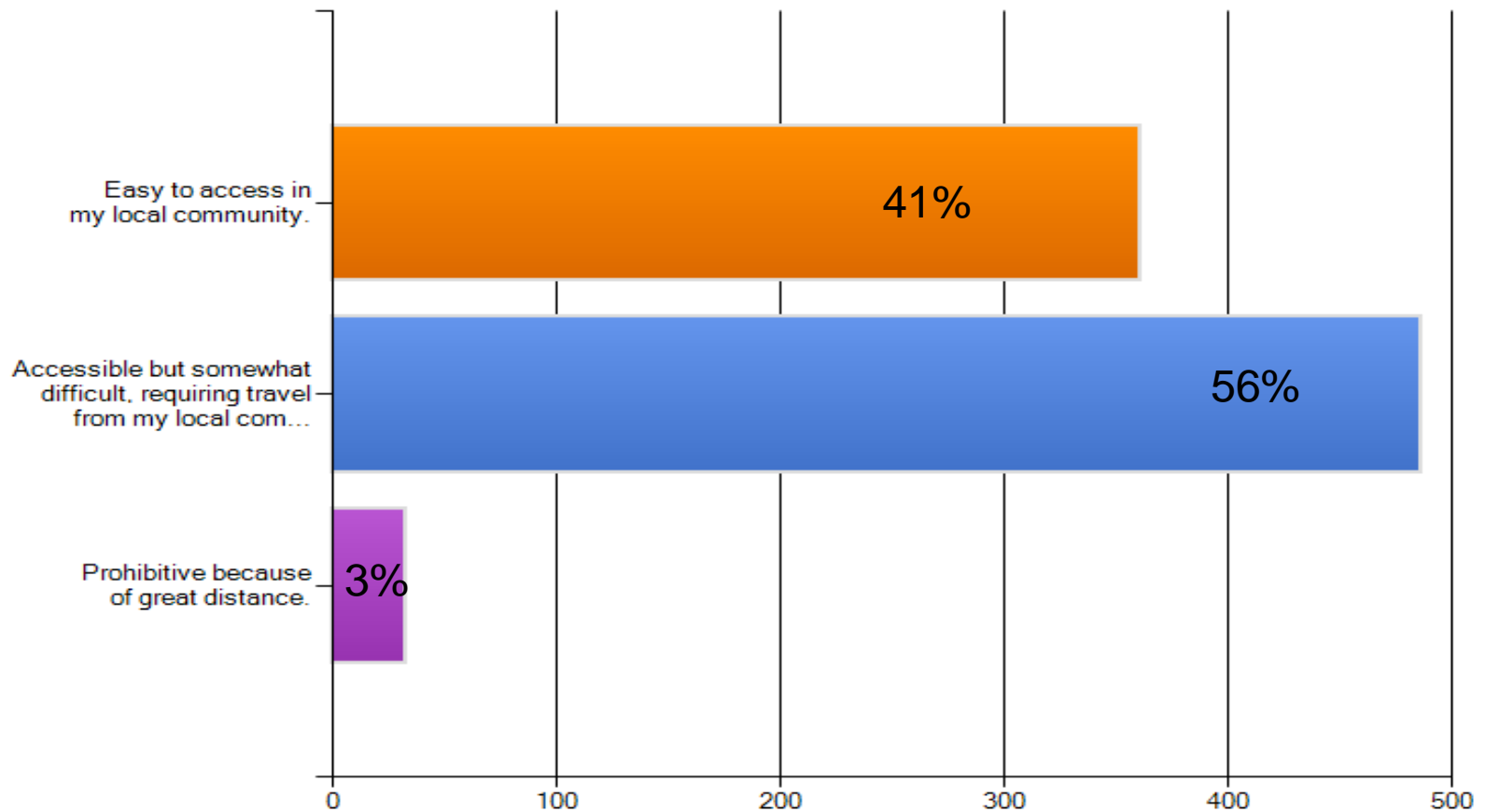
Does Recertification Take Too Much Time?



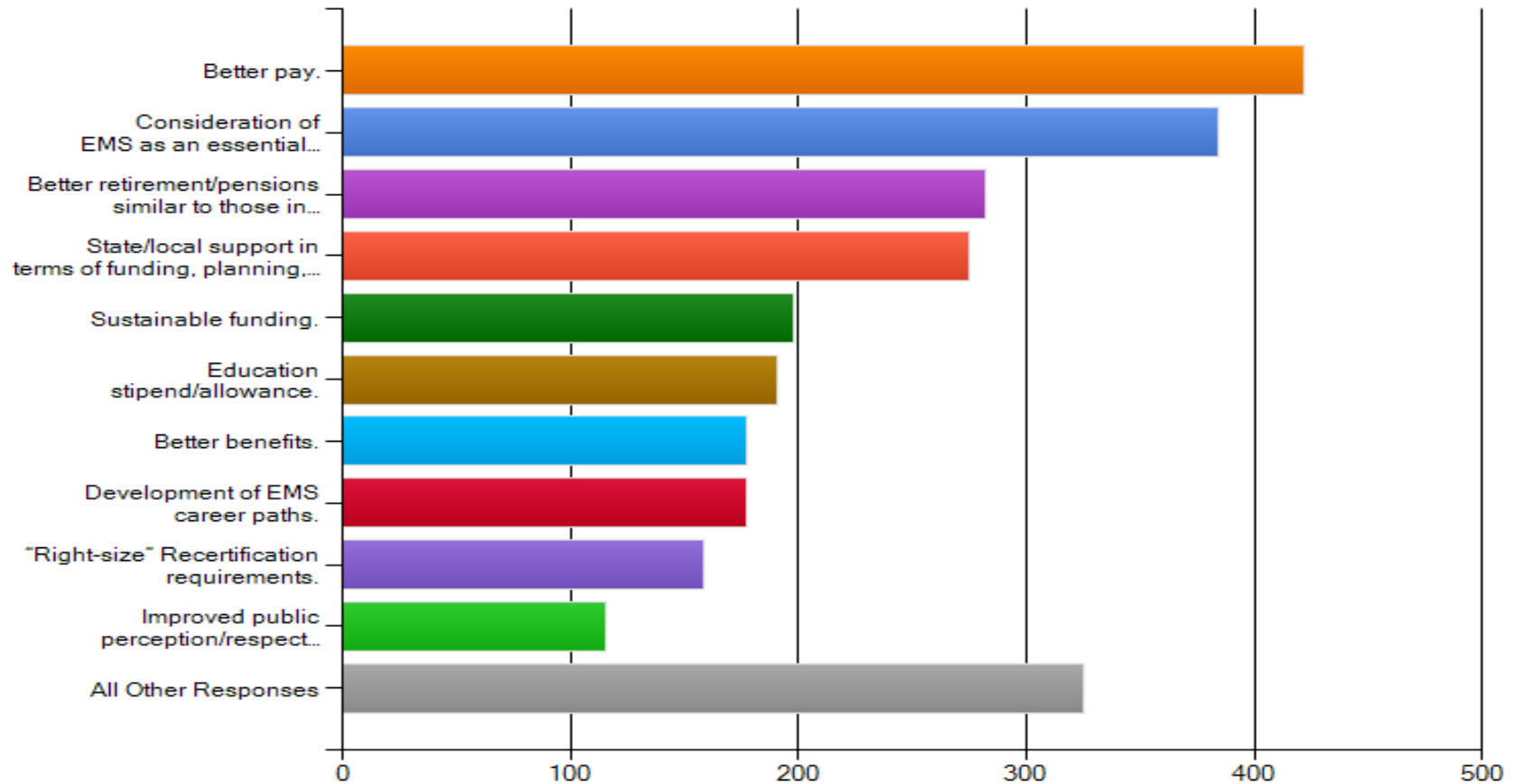
Are Recertification Requirements Too Expensive?



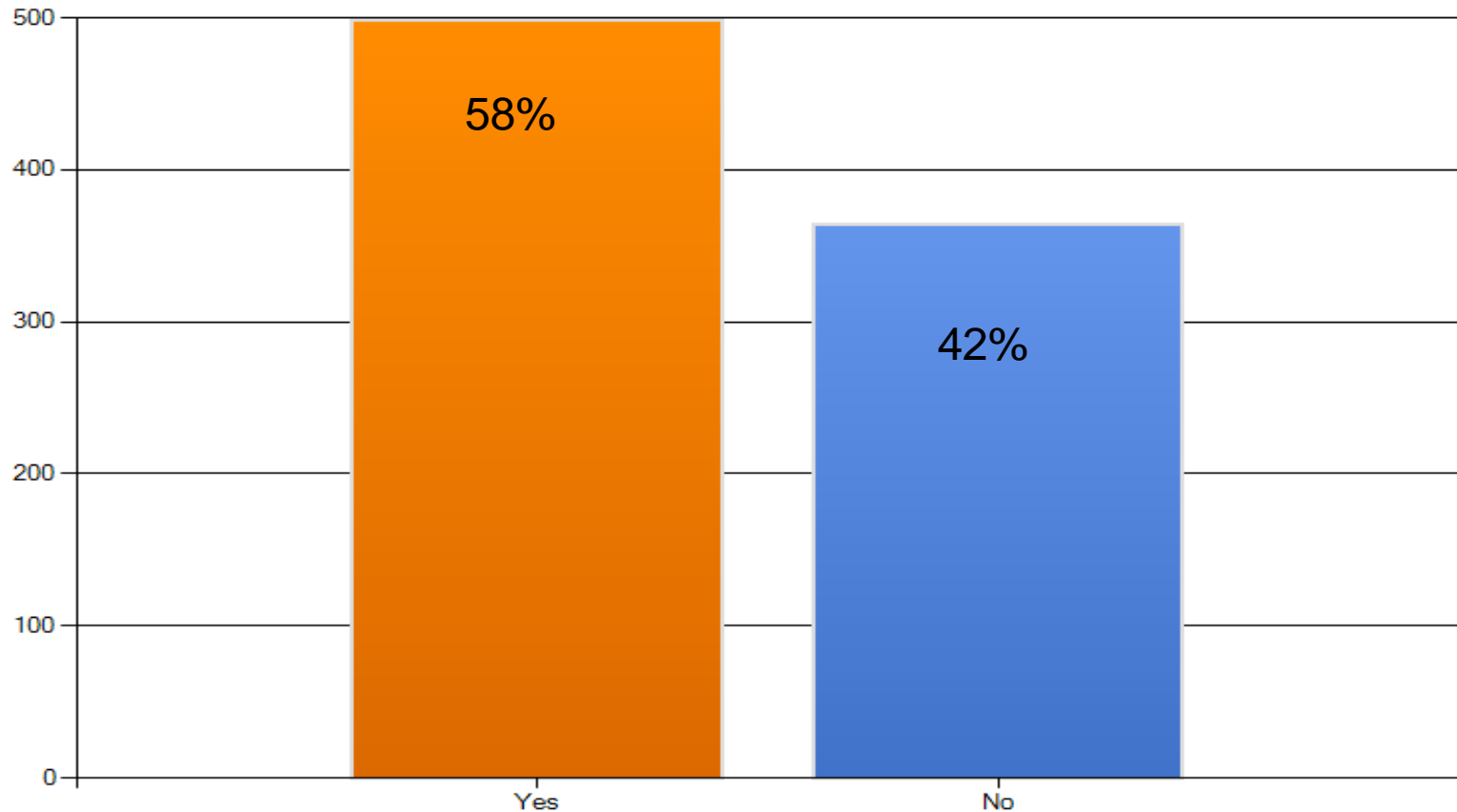
Access to Locations for Con Ed



Ideas to Help Retain EMS Providers

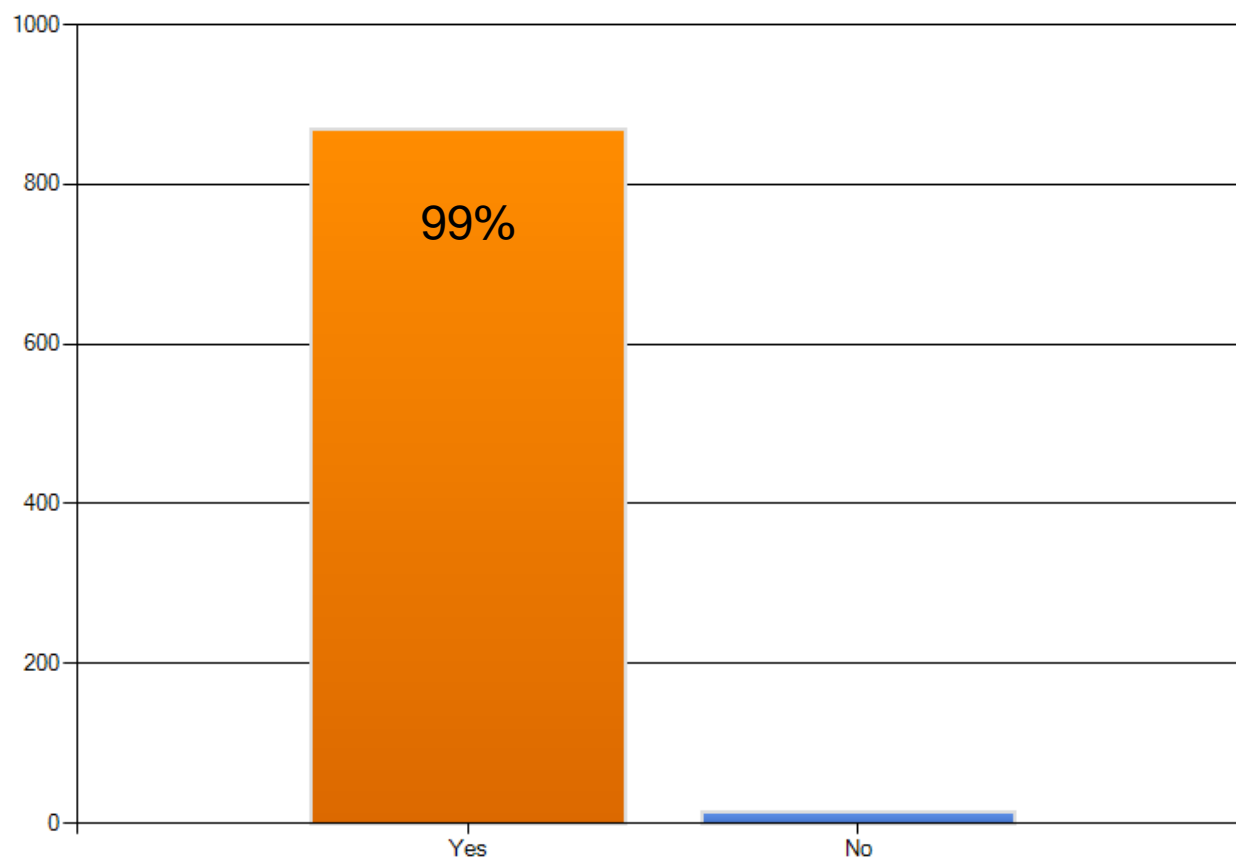


Do Behavioral Transports Strain Your EMS System?



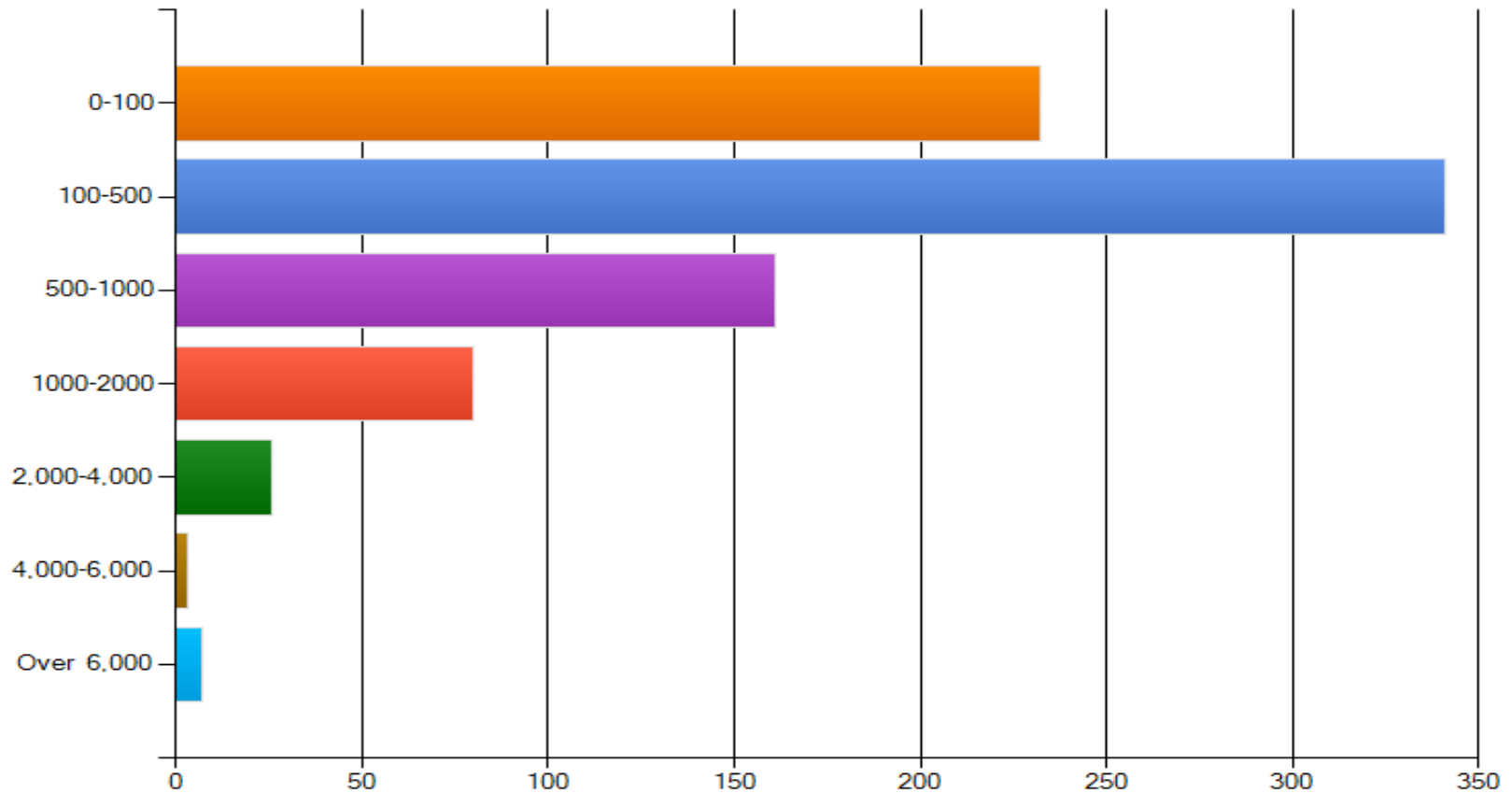
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Should EMS Be an Essential Service?



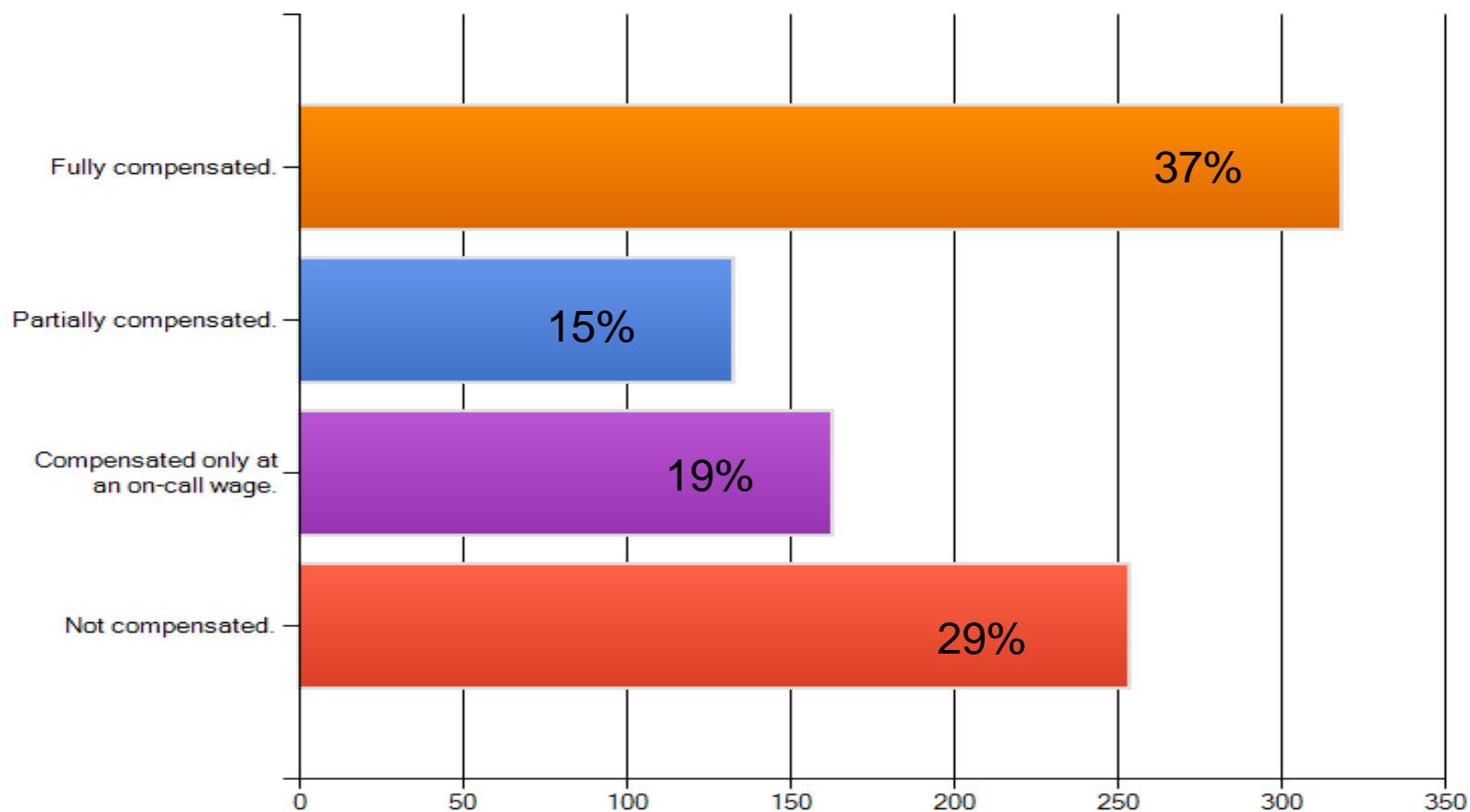
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Annual Dollar\$ Spent by EMS Providers



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Compensation Status of EMS Providers



Dedicated responders...

- The average respondent spends 59.29 hours engaged in EMS Training per year
- While they receive an average of 44.36 hours of continuing education per year.
- The average survey respondent spends 23.23 hours per year raising funds for EMS.
- The average survey respondent spends 230 hours per year engaged as an EMS Volunteer.



Dedicated Volunteers...

- Filtering respondents who work for Volunteer EMS Agencies....
 - The average Volunteer spends 30.56 hours fundraising annually
 - The average Volunteer dedicates **344.25** hours* engaged as an EMS Volunteer annually!



* Responses filtered by provider type: Volunteer. Note: 47 responses containing values greater than 2000 hours were omitted, as were 33 non-numerical responses.

Themes from



Town Hall Meeting

- Attended by approx. 65 concerned EMS Providers & local officials
- Concerns that resonated included a lack of time, money, and resources
- Attended by Rep. Bobby Kaufmann and Sen. Bob Dvorsky, in addition to staff from the Iowa Department of Public Health



Trending

Iowa Emergency Medical Services Data Point	Current	2008	% Change
Paramedics certified in Iowa	2,891	2,462	UP 17.4%
Total Number of Transport services (unable to determine from 2008 data if services were ALS or non-ALS)	411	461	DOWN 12%
Number of Volunteer Transport Services	260	293	DOWN 12%
Number of Volunteer Non-Transport Services	329	368	DOWN 12%

Actual Free Text Comments from Providers

- “State of Iowa does not directly fund EMS for communities.”
- “Keep regulations and requirements at a "level" that doesn't drive EMS members out of the field.”
- “Many long term life changing injuries occur from the heavy lifting...”
- “My opinion is that things will not improve or will improve very slowly until EMS is considered an essential service. I fell that if legislators concentrate on that issue first, things could very rapidly improve.”



Actual Free Text Comments (cont.)

- “Almost all of the emergency care providers I work with drop what they are doing and take care of EMS business. There is no pay, little thanks and many dedicated hours.”
- “Small towns need help”
- “I am finding it difficult to obtain AEMT training within a reasonable travel distance”
- “I feel the cost for initial EMS is entirely too high. Volunteers cannot afford to pay this amount and small services can't afford to pay it.”



Actual Free Text Comments (cont.)

- “Please consider more funding to support EMS in the rural areas where it is badly needed.”
- “Does anyone really listen to what the middle class volunteer has to say? I wish you the best in all your efforts.”
- “Several years ago there was a program that allowed persons who had let their certification lapse to return to EMS by taking a refresher course with the hours based on how long they had been lapsed.”



Actual Free Text Comments (cont.)

- “We should have a process that the state of Iowa that has a paramedic intercept billing code as the State of New York where I believe Both services can bill and be reimbursed.”
- “A state funded retirement/pension program would keep volunteers around”
- “I have many people interested in becoming EMTs but can't because of their time schedule and that the department does not have enough money to send them.”



Actual Free Text Comments (cont.)

- “Too many regulations bogging down volunteer services.”
- “Would like to see the IDPH appoint a State Medical Director”
- “Please give EMS the voice and identity that it deserves.”
- “It's soooo difficult to get grant funds”
- “I just wish people who make these decisions would be on call for one month to know what we actually do and go thru”



IEMSA Supports EMS Bureau

- Improved interaction and communications in last few months
- Support increased staffing for operational efficiency
- Support appointing a State Medical Director
- Background Checks – Neutral Position



Suggestions / Ideas for Improvement

- Volunteer Public Safety Property Tax Credit.
- Increase in the Volunteer Income Tax Credit.
- Sales Tax Exemption for Equipment Purchased by Volunteer EMS/Fire/Reserve Police Officer.
- Gas Tax Exemption for Private EMS Services.
- Amnesty for Lapsed EMS Certifications.
- Review of State-Authorized EMS Training Programs.
- Capital Replacement Equipment Grants.
- Tax Credit for Volunteers to Offset Purchases Made to Benefit Community.
- State Reimbursement for Behavioral Health Transport.
- Increase in Medicaid Reimbursement to help recover costs.

2013 IA Medicaid Allowable Amounts

BLS Non Emergency	Base Rate 69.98
BLS Emergency	Base Rate 69.98
ALS Non Emergency	Base Rate 113.29
ALS Emergency	Base Rate 113.29
Mileage	2.16
Oxygen	10.79
Disposables	4.32
IV Supplies	0.00

IEMSA 2014 Legislative Talking Points

1. EMS, along with Police and Fire, as an Essential Service
2. Increase the Volunteer EMS/Fire Income Tax Credit
3. Funding for EMS Bureau to increase staffing and add Medical Director
4. Any ideas that materialize from this committee





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Questions or Comments?